

It is with great pleasure that we acknowledge and commend the Ohio Department of Education as the national leader in 21st Century Community Learning Center program implementation. In particular, we want to commend you for your exemplary leadership in developing Ohio's network of safe and supportive learning environments for all children, both during and outside the traditional school day. A tireless and committed advocate, your singular ability to focus Ohio's diverse communities on the educational needs of all children is assuring that Ohio's education system is the best in the nation.

On behalf of the Ohio delegation, we extend our thanks to the Ohio Department of Education for supporting a program that has impacted the lives of so many children. We congratulate the individuals behind the 21st Century Community Learning Center program and wish them continued success in their efforts to create appropriate educational opportunities for the children of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Members of Congress: Bob Ney, Marcy Kaptur, Sherrod Brown, Steve Chabot, Paul E. Gillmor, Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, Dennis Kucinich, Steven C. LaTourette, Robert Portman, Timothy J. Ryan, Ted Strickland, Patrick J. Tiberi, and Michael R. Turner.

#### SUPPORTING GOALS OF CERTAIN COMMUNITIES IN RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2004*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 56. This bill supports the creation of a Day of Remembrance for persons of German, Italian, and Japanese descent who had their civil liberties egregiously curtailed by the United States Government during World War II.

This bill has important implications not only for these communities but also for all of us in this country. When our Nation was gripped by the fear of war coming to our shores, we made an unconscionable mistake in the form of Executive Order 9066. Signed on February 19, 1942, this order restricted the freedom of Japanese-, German-, and Italian-Americans along the west coast. Members of these communities were forced to carry identification cards, had travel restrictions, and found their personal property seized with little pretense and no due process. Families of citizens and legal residents alike were forced to leave their homes and live in deprivation behind barbed wires and guard towers in internment camps.

History has taught us that the United States was wrong to utterly obliterate civil liberties during World War II. The fear of spies and saboteurs was unfounded. It turns out that, though gripped by the most destructive and most divisive war of the 20th century, the United States had little to fear from American citizens of ethnic backgrounds. The infringement of constitutional rights for the stated purpose of homeland security was based more on racial discrimination than a credible security threat.

Japanese-, German-, and Italian-Americans deserve, at the very least, a Day of Remem-

brance, not only to ensure that the memory of this terrible time period lives on in their respective communities, but also to ensure that all Americans are aware of the grievous mistakes committed in the name of security. We all have important lessons to learn from the internment camps.

Mr. Speaker, the internment camps were one of the worst travesties this Nation has ever committed. We must learn from this shameful episode and apply these lessons for the future. Today we face our own war on terrorism and phrases like "homeland security," "terrorist cells," and "imminent threat" have become commonplace. The security of this great Nation can only be safeguarded if America's basic values are also defended. In pursuit of security, we must never threaten the rights of liberty and freedom that are guaranteed by the Constitution. We must not hold an entire culture or society responsible for the actions of a few members. We must not restrict the rights of everyone for fear of a few. Above all, we must make every effort to ensure the stability of our Constitution even during the difficult times of war and terror.

#### TRIBUTE TO GERRY GETTY

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 4, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize the recent passing of Gerry Getty, a noted elementary school teacher and community leader in Franklin County, Kansas, which is located just to the south of the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

Gerry Getty taught elementary school for 32 years, was active in the National Education Association, and founded the Franklin County Literature Festival. I am saddened by her death at the young age of 53 and want to bring to the attention of our membership an article about her that ran in the Ottawa Herald on February 12th and her obituary from the Topeka Capital-Journal of February 13th. Dedicated educators like Gerry Getty are essential to the success of our children and grandchildren. Through their selfless work on behalf of their students they foster a love of learning within our local communities. I commend Gerry Getty to my colleagues in the House and I hope we all will be inspired by her efforts to make life better for her students and for her neighbors in Franklin County.

[From the Ottawa Herald, Feb. 12, 2004]

#### LITERATURE FESTIVAL FOUNDER DIES

(By Andy Gassaway)

Gerry Getty, a retired elementary teacher and founder of the annual Franklin County Literature Festival, died Wednesday after a long illness. She was 53. She spent 22 of her 32 years as an educator teaching elementary students in the Central Heights school district, instituting the district's Parent-Teacher Organization and its Reading Is Fundamental program, in which students received free books to take home each year.

"When she saw something she thought would be good for kids, she went for it," Vickie Hall, Lincoln Elementary fifth grade teacher, said. "She has left quite a legacy of the love of literature."

She graduated from Kansas State Teaching College in Emporia in 1971. In 1992, she re-

ceived a master's degree from Kansas State University. Before coming to Franklin County, Getty taught in Overbrook, and Tipton. During her tenure at Central Heights, she also taught adult classes at Neosho County Community College's Ottawa campus.

Beginning in 1994, Getty organized a literature festival at Central Heights that brought children's authors to the area to meet with students. In 2002, the event was transplanted to Ottawa University and included students from all of Franklin County.

"She had a passion for reading," Steve Getty, her husband, said. "Her dream was for every student to be able to read. She wanted to bring it home to Franklin County, and wanted all students to see the wonderful world of literature, meet authors and bring a little culture to their lives."

Last year, the event brought together more than 1,500 students on the OU campus to visit with 13 authors, illustrators and storytellers who took the day to discuss their craft with the young readers. Steve Getty said his wife enjoyed reading the same books she read to her students. Her favorite authors included Mary Downing Hahn and Vicki Grove, he said.

Getty led the way in affiliating the local teachers' association with Kansas National Education Association and National Education Association in 1990. She served several years as president of the association and its negotiating team, and was a delegate to the state convention and three national conventions during her tenure. Her efforts earned her the Viking of the Year award, as voted upon by her fellow teachers at Central Heights. Other honors included being recognized in Who's Who Among America's Teachers, the 2001 Outstanding Reading Educator award from the Franklin County Reading Council and the 2002 Kansas Reading Association Professional Literacy Award.

"She's a very well-respected teacher," Central Heights elementary principal Mary Bogart said. "She may have led a short life, but she was a real doer."

Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ottawa.

Getty has been cremated. A Rosary will be said at 2 p.m. Sunday at Dengel & Son Mortuary, Ottawa, followed by a family visitation.

[From the Topeka Capital-Journal, Feb. 13, 2004]

GERRY ANN GETTY

Gerry Ann Getty, 53, Ottawa, died Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2004, at the University of Kansas Hospital, Kansas City. Funeral mass will be 10 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Tod Ziegler officiating.

She was born July 21, 1950, to Mathias and Marie (Haug) Roeder in Seneca. She grew up on a dairy farm in Nemaha County. She graduated from Baileyville-Benedict High School in 1968. She graduated from Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, in 1971. In 1992, she received a master's degree from Kansas State.

She married Steven Getty on Oct. 3, 1970, at Seneca. He survives.

She was an elementary school teacher for 32 years. She taught in Overbrook, McDonald, Tipton and Central Heights. She also taught adult classes at Neosho County Community College's Ottawa campus.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She founded the Franklin County Reading Festival in 2000. She was president and chief negotiator for her local chapter of the National Education Association and served as a national delegate. She received several education awards, including Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 1995 Viking of the Year, 2001 Outstanding Reading Educator from the Franklin County Reading